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ABOUT US

The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance is the lead partner in Arkansas for the No Kid Hungry Campaign, which connects kids in need to effective nutrition programs like school breakfast, summer meals and after school meals programs.

The Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign, launched in 2010, is a partnership between the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, the Arkansas Governor's office and Share Our Strength with the goal of ending childhood hunger in Arkansas.

HELPFUL LINKS

www.arhungeralliance.org

www.frac.org

School Breakfast Reaching More Arkansas Children:

Participation Increasing as More Low-Income Students Start Their Days with a Healthy Breakfast

LITTLE ROCK, AR (February 10, 2015) – The annual national school breakfast report released today by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) finds that, on an average school day in 2013-2014, more than 146,700 low-income children in Arkansas participated in school breakfast, an increase of 3.5 percent (almost 5000 more students) from the previous year. "This finding illustrates that the work we have been doing is paying off by providing more students with a healthy breakfast each day," says Arkansas No Kid Hungry Campaign Director Patty Barker. "Arkansas has moved **from 12th to 10th highest in the nation** in the percentage of eligible students who are participating in the National School Breakfast Program."

The *School Breakfast Scorecard* measures the success of the School Breakfast Program at the national and state levels. The FRAC report finds almost 60 percent of low-income children in Arkansas ate school breakfast for every 100 that received free or reduced-price lunch during the 2013 – 2014 school year. This is an increase of 3.5 percent from the 2012 – 2013 school year. When the No Kid Hungry campaign began in Arkansas, less than 50% of children who qualified for school breakfast were actually participating in the school breakfast program.

Nationally, 53 low-income children ate school breakfast for every 100 who also ate school lunch, an increase from the previous school year's ratio of 52:100, which translated into 320,000 more low-income children eating school breakfast and was a large jump from the 43:100 ratio of a decade earlier.

In Arkansas, more than 60 percent of students qualify for free or reduced price school breakfast. Low participation means missed meals for hungry children and missed federal nutrition dollars for Arkansas. Increasing participation to 70 low-income children receiving breakfast for every 100 who eat lunch – a goal we are working toward – would lead to **an additional almost 26,000 low-income Arkansas children eating breakfast each day**. That increase in participation would add an **additional \$6.6 million in federal child nutrition funding to Arkansas's economy**.

"Although we're making good progress, there are still too many children in our state who are missing out on school breakfast and its benefits for health and education," said Barker. "We're encouraging all schools in Arkansas to let us help them start Breakfast-After-the-Bell programs." Schools that are already making breakfast part of the school day are seeing fewer absences, fewer discipline issues, fewer trips to the school nurse and many more children eating school breakfast. "We're confident we will reach the 70 percent goal in 2015," Barker said, "and that more students will enjoy the benefits that healthy, regular school breakfasts will provide them."

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About the report:

The full report, *School Breakfast Scorecard*, is available at www.frac.org. To measure the reach of the School Breakfast Program nationally and in the states, FRAC compares the number of schools and low-income children that participate in breakfast to those that participate in the National School Lunch Program. FRAC also sets a participation goal of reaching 70 low-income children with breakfast for every 100 receiving lunch as a way to gauge state progress and the costs of under participation in the program.